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UNEXPECTED SYNONYMY IN CHLOROPIDAE, FROM THE FAMILY EPHYDRIDAE (DIPTERA)

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Abstract

Ectropa viduata Schiner, 1868, described from Sydney as an ephydrid, proved from examination of the holotype (Vienna Museum) to be the chloropid known as *Lasiopleura fuscipes* (Malloch), also described from Sydney. *Ectropa* is preoccupied and was renamed *Apotropina* Hendel, 1907, and this name antedates the well known names *Lasiopleura* and *Parahippelates*, the former in particular recorded from all faunal regions.

Schiner (1868) in the Diptera of the *Novara* Reise described a new genus and new species, *Ectropa viduata*, for a single specimen from Sydney, Australia, placed in the Ephydrinae and compared with the well-known ephydrid genera *Ochthera* and *Pelina*. Hendel (1907) recognized that *Ectropa* was preoccupied by *Ectropa* Wallengren, 1863, in the Lepidoptera and renamed it *Apotropina*, without comment on its family position. Tillyard (1926) merely listed it in the Ephydridae, and it was not mentioned by Colless and McAlpine (1970), nor by J. R. Malloch in his numerous papers on the Australian acalyprate Diptera (cf. Lee, Crust and Sabrosky, 1956).

My attention was directed to *Ectropa* by way of correspondence between Wayne Mathis of the Smithsonian Institution, interested in Ephydridae, and D. K. McAlpine of the Australian Museum, who guessed from the description that it might be a chloropid of the genus *Lasiopleura* Becker, 1910. Through the kindness of Dr Ruth Lichtenberg of the Naturhistorisches Museum in

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Vienna, I have now been able to examine the holotype of *Ectropa viduata* Schiner, a female in excellent condition, and I can confirm that it is indeed a *Lasiopleura* sens. lat. (*Parahippelates* Becker 1911). This genus must thus be known as *Apotropina* Hendel (new synonymy).

Andersson (1977), in a detailed taxonomic and phylogenetic study of Old World Chloropidae, especially based on male genitalia, accepted Duda's subfamily Siphonellopsinae for five genera, including *Siphonellopsis* Strobl, *Lasiopleura* Becker, *Parahippelates* Becker (resurrected from the synonymy of *Lasiopleura*), and two new genera founded entirely or partly on species previously described in *Lasiopleura*. However, six named Old World genera and two New World genera of Siphonellopsinae were not studied, and it would appear that one should be cautious about proposing new genera with so many possibilities still unstudied. He also expressed the view that "a considerable increase in the number of valid genera will follow" further studies in this subfamily. This is possible, but it is also possible that apparent generic distinctions will disappear or become blurred when more species are studied in the great diversity of *Lasiopleura* sens. lat., now *Apotropina*. I have seen a large number of species from various parts of the world, and this appears to be an old, primitive, and widely distributed group of characteristic habitus.

This species, now *Apotropina viduata* (Schiner), proved to be that described by Malloch (1924: 330) as *Parahippelates fuscipes*, also from Sydney (new synonymy). The holotype of *fuscipes* is in the Australian Museum, and I have paratypes before me in the United States National Museum of Natural History. I dissected the male genitalia of a paratype and found that it is *Parahippelates* in Andersson's sense, so that even if Andersson's restricted use of *Lasiopleura* is followed, *Parahippelates* at least will fall as a junior synonym of *Apotropina*.

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